
STUDIES IN MIDDLE AMERICAN BROMELIACEAE II

Mezobromelia is distinguished from other members of the subfamily *Tillandsioideae* by epipetalous stamens and biappendaged petals that are agglutinate or connate for a significant portion of their length. Smith (Smith & Downs, 1977) recognized two species in the genus, and Rauh (1976, 1977) described two more. Recent collections from Costa Rica of flowering material congruent with *Vriesea splitgerberi* (Utley & Utley 7141) show that the petals of this species are biappendaged and connate. These characteristics, in conjunction with the polystichously flowered inflorescence branches (a condition rarely encountered in *Vriesea* but common in *Mezobromelia*), strongly suggest that this species is better treated as a member of *Mezobromelia*. Gouda (1987) presented evidence that *V. splitgerberi* is conspecific with *Tillandsia pleiosticha* and proposed the combination *Vriesea pleiosticha*. Because we consider the species to be better placed in *Mezobromelia*, we propose the following new combination.

Mezobromelia pleiosticha (Griseb.) Utley & Luther, comb. nov. *Tillandsia pleiosticha* Griseb., Nachr. Konigl. Ges. Wiss. Georg Göttingen-Augusts-Univ. 1864: 19. 1865. *Vrie-*

sea pleiosticha (Griseb.) Gouda, Fl. Guianas, Ser. A 189: 82. 1987. TYPE: Venezuela: *Fendler 1514* (holotype, GOET).

Guzmania splitgerberi Mez, Monogr. Phan. 9: 930. 1896. *Thecophyllum splitgerberi* (Mez) Pittendr., Evolution 2: 60. 1948. *Vriesea splitgerberi* (Mez) Lyman B. Smith & Pittendr., J. Wash. Acad. Sci. 43: 403. 1954. TYPE: Surinam: *Splitgerber 966* (holotype, L).

LITERATURE CITED

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